

## Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004

Its very tight at the top of Division 1 of the Leamington League. Going into the last full week of the autumn competition there is only 10 points separating the top three teams - and the third placed has a match in hand. St. Georges A lead the way with their ninth win putting them in pole position with 71 points. The Saints trio of Earl Sweeney, Ian Packford and Mike Bishop cleaned up the singles and Sweeney and Packford the doubles for a 10-0 score over bottom placed RNA A. Just behind are Whitnash A, the current holders. They overcame Free Church A 7-3 and then RNA A 9-1 to put them on 67 points for their 9 matches. Whitnash's final match is against St. Georges A and so the Saints' 4 point advantage will prove crucial. Against Church, Whitnash's Mark Woolerton, Richard Arnold and Jon Williams all picked up two singles and Woolerton and Williams the doubles. Church's reply came from Gary Webb with two and Stuart Kurle with one. Against RNA A Richard Arnold and Mark Woolerton took singles and doubles and Jane Dickens a brace. Naval crewman Ken Southwell kept the one point. But County Council A could be the dark horse that sweeps into the lead at the end after trailing all season. Their 9-1 over Wellesbourne and 10-0 against Riverhouse Henley A place them on 61 points from 8 matches, with two to play. Phil Paine and Matthew Hobday took trebles in the Wellesbourne match, Clive Irwin a brace plus the doubles partnering Phil Paine. Sven Rudolph held one for 'bourne. In the Riverhouse match Pat McCabe, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin all took three each and Paine and McCabe the doubles. Whitnash B also had a good result over Riverhouse Henley A with a 9-1 win, Justin Rai and Ian Perry picking up hat-tricks, Alan Hewitt a brace as well as the doubles partnering Ian Perry. Simon Griew kept the consoling point for Riverhouse. Colebridge A have been out of form. First they went down 7-3 to their clubmates Colebridge B and then slipped 6-4 to Wellesbourne. In the local derby Paul Collins, Peter Roddy and Neil Wheatley took three, two, one respectively for the B side, with Collins and Wheatley adding the doubles whilst A's Barry Hunt held onto two and Graham Hoskin one. Then in the next match Barry Hunt again kept two, John Chandler and Bob Brown one each for Colebridge but Wellesbourne's Pete Dunnnett and Gary Stewart had seized the match when they added the doubles to Pete's treble and Gary's brace. Colebridge B also went down 6-4 in their next match, fourth placed Free Church A taking the honours. Gary Webb, Stuart Kurle and Dave Daniels all gave Church two singles whilst Neil Wheatley held two, Michael Rinnhofer one and the doubles together for Colebridge.

Three successes on the trot for Flavels in Division 2 have catapulted them into the lead with 67 points from 8 wins, one loss and one more match to play. First Flavels edged out Eathorpe A 6-4, rolled over Free Church C 9-1 and then just got in front of Marconi with another tight 6-4 result. First the long close encounter with Eathorpe with Mick Bennett and Len Coonan taking two each and the doubles whilst Roger Potts added a crucial single. Allan Stockham kept his three for Eathorpe with Matthew Cooper adding one. In the Church match Roger Potts took the maximum and partnered Trevor Bradley for the doubles. Trevor and Mick Bennett also took braces and another point was gained when Church's Stuart Mills had to leave having won one of his two matches but with one game unplayed. Against Marconi Mick Bennett and Len Coonan picked up their three each for Flavels' win. For Marconi, Steve Smith, Dennis Mockford and Roy Joiner all held one and the doubles went to Smith and Mockford. Marconi have also played three other matches in short succession, one of which early at their opponents request. Thus Marconi have completed their season and picked up 63 points from the 10 matches. It remains to be seen whether that is enough for them to remain in second place. First they trounced Ashorne 9-1 with Steve Smith and Dennis Mockford taking singles and doubles and Roy Joiner a brace. Roger Kelley replied for the one point for Ashorne. Then they picked up a 7 3 result against RNA D with Steve Smith, Roy Joiner and Dennis Mockford taking three, two, one respectively and Steve and Dennis the doubles. Naval reserve Steve Poole took two, Pam Beedham one. Then they went down 7-3 to St. Georges D, though Steve Smith kept two and Roy Joiner one. Bert Banks was supreme for Saints taking his three and the doubles with Gary Edwards who produced a brace whilst Tracey Fletcher added a single. RNA C had an excellent 9-1 victory over naval

colleagues RNA D with the latter heading inevitably to relegation to div 3 along with struggling Ashorne. For the C's Dot Macfarlane and Andy Davies took singles and doubles and Daryl Burgess provided a brace. Robin Fox-Strangways consoled the D's with one single. AP Sports A could only achieve a 5-5 draw against Free Church B, a result which has cost them dear as they cannot now win the division. For AP Andy Meredith took two, Eddie Stafford and Edward Freeman one each and Meredith and Stafford picked up the draw when they won the final game the doubles. Chris Mulligan held his three for Church, Lleryn Brocklehurst two. Two good results for County Council B move them up the placings. First they beat doomed Ashorne 9-1 led by Derek Harwood and Nilton Green in singles and doubles and followed by a brace from Sue Clarke. Roger Kelley replied for Ashorne. Then they squeezed past Eathorpe 6-4 with Nilton Green crucially taking his three, Derek Harwood two and the doubles together. Matthew Cooper kept two for Eathorpe, Chris Atkins and Allan Stockham contributing one each. Finally St. Georges D saw off Free Church C 7-3 with three, two, one from Gary Edwards, Tracey Fletcher and Bert Banks plus the doubles which went to Edwards and Fletcher. John Taylor held onto two of his for Church, Cherry Matthews one. Saints with 51 points from 8 matches are the only team that could prevent Flavels from winning the division as all other possible teams are more than 10 points adrift with only one match left to play.